

HABS
MO
110-MARVI,
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Augustus Ferdinand Grabs House
Marthasville
Warren County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1708

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AUGUSTUS FERDINAND GRABS HOUSE

HABS No. MO-1708

Location: Marthasville, Warren County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Built and designed by original owner Augustus Ferdinand Grabs. Born in Nied-Wiesa von Greiffenburg, September 28, 1818; was employed as a merchant in Silesia in the business firm of Barez (a William Barez settled in the Dutzow area), left Prussia in 1830 and emigrated to Missouri, returned to Germany on business, and moved to Missouri in 1834. He tried farming with, according to Frederick Muench, "indifferent success," and then, at the time of the great flood of 1844, moved from the river bottom to the town of Marthasville where he bought a small house which he enlarged into the two story structure shown in the photograph. The small house built on site before 1844, center section raised to two stories c. 1844. Grabs also added the one story shop. He died September 26, 1865.

Copy of a historic photograph, taken ca. 1865-1870. The strap hinge is a detail from the door on the old shop. Some of the original furnishings in this house are photographed in this survey. Grabs came from an aristocratic family and was able to bring an unusually large number of articles with him, including furniture and porcelain.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Present [1962] owner, Mrs. Wilhelmine Ruschie, a descendant.
William G. Bek, "The Followers of Duden," The Missouri Historical Review XVIII, 4, July 1924, 583.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the [REDACTED] records for MO-1800.

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